Development of Park near the Taj Mahal

536. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Mnister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1833 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether any indigenous consultancy has offered their services for development of park near the Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the steps, Government propose to take to have indigenous consultancy rather than foreign consultancy for the development of tourist spots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism have decided to seek the help of National Park Service U.S.A. to design a layout for the gardens outside the Taj Mahal, Agra. National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad and the Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage have been identified as Indian agencies who would collaborate with the National Park Service.

Mid-term appraisal and survey on Doordarshan coverage

537. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the mid-term appraisal and survey conducted by Government, it has been revealed that the Doordarshan will cover nearly 82 per cent of the country's population and will cover all district headquarters by the end of this plan;

(b) if so, by when the Doordarshan is expected to reach to cent per cent country's population; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the task?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) It is estimated that on completion of the schemes included in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan, including those added at the stage of mid-term appraisal. TV service would be available to about 82.8 per cent population of the country, covering all the district headquarters towns

(b) and (c) Extension of TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the country can be carried out in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources in the future plans of TV expansion

I.T.D.C. hotels in foreign countries

538. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up I.T.D.C. hotels in the foreign countries in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing hotels of the ITDC in the foreign countries are providing better services to the customers; and

(d) if no, what steps Government propose to take to improve the performance of these hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) ITDC has signed memoranda of understanding with a company incorporated in the Federal Republic of Germany and one in Newzealand for setting up one joint venture hotel project each in their respective countries subject to feasibility of the project, their commercial viability and signing of collaboration agreements etc.